

On the Organization of Farmers.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Thinking a line or two from the good old county of Edgecombe would prove interesting to your many readers, I have concluded to pen a few thoughts on the importance and power of organization of that class of persons usually termed clodhoppers. While we are thus sarcastically termed, should we not feel proud of that distinction, knowing full well that we are the great motive power, that supports the various enterprises throughout this broad land of ours? Without farm products, every wheel of industry would cease to turn and the laboring masses would be in a deplorable condition—almost beyond comprehension. And as every branch of industry from the oil, steel, and tobacco magnates down to the street sweepers are organized, why should not the honest tillers of the soil organize? And having eighty per cent of the population, what a power they can exert.

Yet for many years they have been drudging along single handed and alone—"one in a gang." What a spectacle to behold—but thank God the day is not far distant when, Phoenix-like, they will awake from their long slumbers and like a mighty avalanche will throw consternation in the ranks of their would-be destroyers, not for the purpose of conquest and plunder, but simply to assert their God-given rights, to-wit: A just and equitable share of the products of their toil. The silvery ray of light is fast emerging from the darkness and gloom that has overshadowed them for many long years, and those who have formulated these mighty combinations have forged the weapons that ere long will recoil upon their guilty heads. Daylight is thus breaking upon us, and being fully aware of our gigantic power, our innumerable hosts are organizing, the field being fully ripe, the gleaners are fast gathering in the sheaves.

Yes, thank God, the great Farmers' Alliance has again arisen from its lethargic state, unfurling its mighty banners aloft to the breeze, with undying mottoes inscribed thereon—"Peace on earth and good will to all mankind." These hosts once thoroughly organized and demanding only right and justice—is there any power that can stay their hand? Nay, nay. Knowing our rights, we will maintain them.

"Yes," say the scoffers, "but they won't stick." Did they not level the great bagging trust? And if our rights are not respected or demands not granted, others will receive the same blow.

Organize, organize, is our watchword to-day. In part proof of that fact, old Edgecombe has just had thirteen Alliances formed, covering every section of the county, composed of the intelligence and wealth of each section. All of its Alliances have held meetings since being organized, and its members are augmented and continually augmenting at every meeting; its leaders are

zealous and enthusiastic in the cause, and will keep the good work moving on until the Alliance fire burns brightly in the threshold of every honest and industrious farmer in the county.

Our worthy and esteemed State Lecturer, Bro. H. M. Cates, though not of a very prepossessing appearance at first, upon a more extended acquaintance has a charm about his personality that is indescribably attractive—by his deep reasonings, frequently interspersed with his well drawn witty illustrations. We can truthfully assert that he is "surely the right man in the right place," truly the inimitable Bill Arp of the Alliance. The State Executive Committee should give him every assistance in continuing the good work, until every township, hamlet and county is thoroughly organized in the good Old North State.

But however zealous we may be in the progress of the good work, yet prudence and caution should be our watchwords in the makeup of our organizations, as unscrupulous and designing men will attempt to enter our sacred portals in order to sap the very life blood of our existence, hence the imperative duty of every Allianceman to keep a watchful eye and guard well its doors, that its fundamental principles may not be nullified and its foundation placed upon a rock as lasting as time itself.

Yours fraternally,

J. A. DAVIS.

Lecturer of Edgecombe County Alliance, Davistown, N. C.

Sooner or later we find out that life is not a holiday, but a discipline. Earlier or later we will discover that the world is not a play-ground. It is quite clear that God means it for a school. The moment we forget that the puzzle of life begins. We try to play in school. The Master does not mind that so much for its own sake, for He likes to see His children happy; but in our playing we neglect our lessons. We do not see how much there is to learn, and we do not care. But our Master cares. He has a perfectly overpowering and inexplicable solicitude for our education; and because He loves us He comes into the school sometimes and speaks to us.—Selected.

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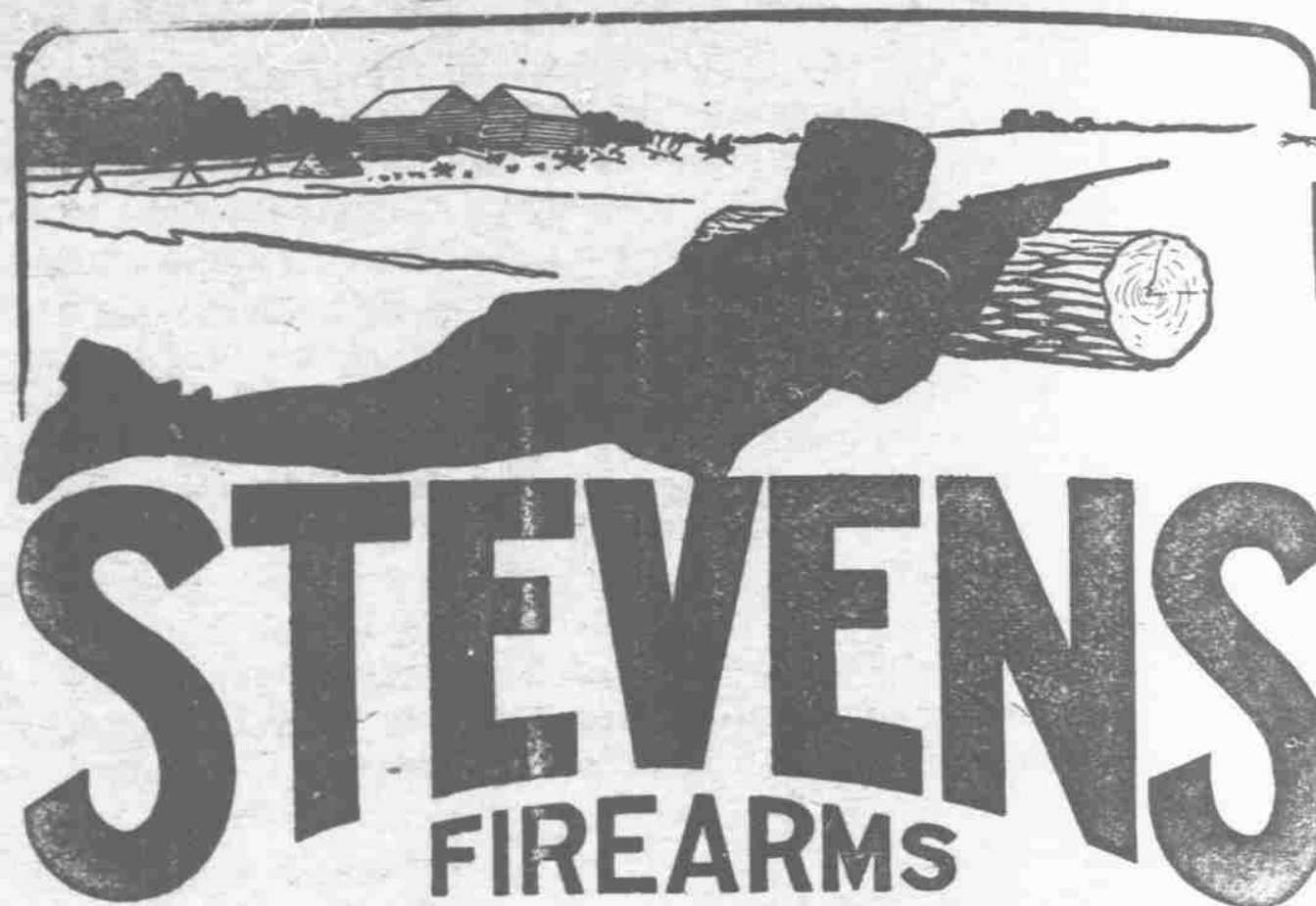
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